Bentz, Annie S.

Drawer 19a

ARTISTS - B

71.2009.085.02242

Artists of Abraham Lincoln portraits

Annie S. Bentz

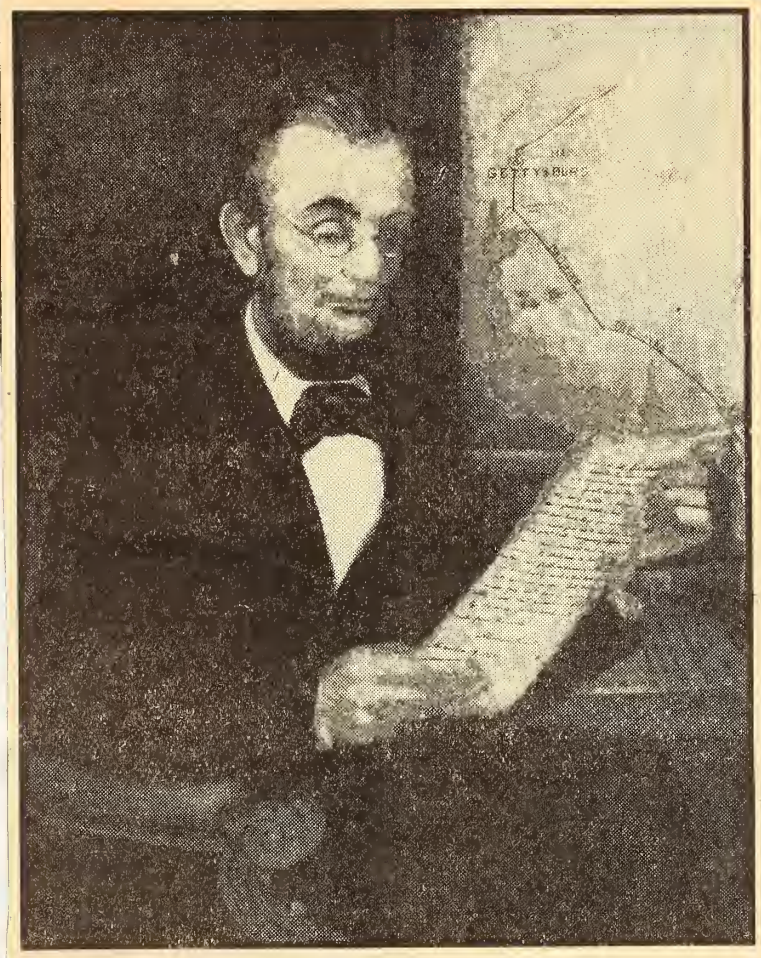
Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71. 2009. 085. 02243

Bentz



Portrait of Lincoln on Exhibit

Mrs. Anna Onstott of New York will give the gallery talk in the Art Institute this afternoon, on this painting of "Abraham Lincoln, the Great Benefactor," painted by her friends Annie S. Bentz, and loaned to the Art Institute for a few days. The picture shows Lincoln seated in a chair made from wood from the Lincoln family's Illinois home, reading a copy of his own Gettysburg address, with a map of Gettysburg cemetery in the background.

PHOTOCOPY
(original in safe)

Lincoln, "The Great Benefactor"
Born February 12, 1809 - Died April 15, 1865

PHONE, CALEDONIA 5-8300 FIREPROOF

HOTEL LATHAM

TWENTY EIGHTH ST., AT FIFTH AVE.

NEW YORK

July 9. 1938.

Historian
Lincoln Life Insurance Co.

Dear Sir: I am very much interested in Lincolniana and a friend has painted a portrait which we exhibited at Gettysburg. You will be interested to know she put into Lincoln's hands a copy of his autographed address. At the time she had not seen your facsimile of the Bancroft final copy but it fits exactly. He is seated in the White House. Supposedly reading it over after writing + signing it. Now she wants to put on the table an ink well + pen - What can you suggest? We have several pictures but want it correct. As soon as this is done will have a photograph made + send

to you, with our compliments.
as I am sponsoring the artist
It was greatly admired by
both the Blue + the Grey
soldiers. and Col. Bullock of
So. Bend, Indiana. He suggested I write
you about the chair, pen, + ink-well.
as we want it historically correct.
The painting is 31-41 in. on canvas
in oil. Do you have anything
in Lincoln Lore on the history
of the Sanitary Commission.?
Our Lincoln is given the title
"The Great Benefactor" +. my
story will be descriptive with
illustrations in pen + ink by the artist
Annie S. Bentz. She hopes now to
make a series of Lincoln portraits.
In haste. Thanking you
for any suggestion you may
make. Sincerely

(Mrs.) Anna Oustoff
4 East 28th St.
N.Y. City.

Bentz, Annie S. (Mrs. Anna Onstott)

July 14, 1938

Mrs. Anna Onstott
4 East 28th Street
New York, New York

My dear Madam:

The closest thing we could get to an ink-well of Lincoln's day is the picture of one which stood on his own desk at Springfield, Illinois. We take pleasure in enclosing a print, which you may keep.

Of course we would be very glad indeed to see a copy of the painting when it is finished or any other works that Annie S. Bentz may do upon Abraham Lincoln.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB
Enc. (1)

Director

PHONE, CALEDONIA 5-8300 FIREPROOF

HOTEL LATHAM

TWENTY EIGHTH ST., AT FIFTH AVE.

NEW YORK

Lincoln Life Ins. Co.
attention.

Nov. 19. 1938.

Mr. Warren.

Dear Sir: I am enclosing the new portrait of Abraham Lincoln I told you about some time ago. just finished by a friend of mine a New York artist. The phots does not do it justice as it does not bring out out the color, lights, and shadows. It is life size. The address in his hands. is the 1st Bancroft copy. & he has written the 2nd. for the Sanitary Fair.

The 1st Annual Report of the Sanitary Commission 10 Cooper Union. N.Y. City. 1862 lies on the table. Miss Louise Schuyler was chairman and founder with her pastor Dr. Bellows, A collection of her reports are in the public library here.

The Map is the Brady map.

The Bible his mother's now in Congressional library. and the quill pen & ink stand the ones used to sign Emancipation Proclamation. The chair is the one made from oak timbers from the house he & his father built in Ills. It is upholstered in olive green muslin.

The chair is now in Phila. Pa.
It is the one he sat in with his first and last pictures with Tad.. + also his very last picture.
We had a hard time to locate it but did succeed 3 weeks ago. + the artist had to change the red to green - + also the glasses made smaller.

Strange as it may seem when she put the Gettysburg address in his hands. over a year ago. she had not seen your facimilies + it exactly fits. The portrait has not yet been exhibited since the final touch. When it went to Gettysburg in July it was not completed but was well received -
We then took it to Washington to check up on details. hoping then to find the chair but failed.
We are calling the portrait. "Lincoln the great Benefactor" + hope to write a new chapter of Lincoln's life.

PHONE, CALEDONIA 5-8300 FIREPROOF

HOTEL LATHAM

TWENTY EIGHTH ST., AT FIFTH AVE.

NEW YORK

3.

Would you be interested in either the portrait or story or both? I have made some recent discoveries of his benevolence, hence the title. I am preparing some articles. Miss Tarbell is interested in my interpretation & the artists conception in this picture & story.

Please accept the photograph with our compliments, also the article on the Bixby letter, which please let me know your opinion of it

Sincerely -

(Mrs.) Anna Amstutz

P.S. In Sunday Boston Herald, Nov. 16. is an article "Lincoln at Gettysburg" by F. Lauriston Bullard. if you haven't seen would no doubt interest you as it has me (A.A.)

PHONE, CALEDONIA 5-8300 FIREPROOF

HOTEL LATHAM

TWENTY EIGHTH ST., AT FIFTH AVE.

NEW YORK

Nov. 21/38

Dear Dr. Warren:

I recd the Act. 4 Nov 7. Love and am so glad you are doing this the greatest Lincoln monument of all.

By the time you get this you will have recd the photo. I am very anxious that you see the painting - and am wondering if you are coming east or have a representative here. I have seen the play & hope you can see it. there are however as always some things that should be omitted that are not true.

Col. Seymour Bullock of So. Bend Indiana is coming Tues. & he writes he "has some new light on Lincoln's last days" - he is publishing soon. No doubt you know of this.

The watch Lincoln was to give Mary Todd as a wedding gift - is there. & is I understand for sale

In haste. Anna Ancott

P.S. Have you anything on Johnny Appleseed & Lincoln in Indiana? I understand they met there and also in Ills. - (A.A.)

I am interested in him also. To whom shall I write in Ft. Wayne?

November 23, 1938

Anna Onstott
Room 405, Hotel Latham
New York City, N. Y.

My dear Madam:

Will you please accept my thanks for the picture of the very interesting painting your friend has made and it will add considerably to our collection on reproductions of American paintings.

We also appreciate the reference to the magazine article by Mr. Bullard and also the clippings enclosed. Thank you indeed for your courtesy.

Very truly yours,

LAW:BS Director

P. S. Mr. Robert C. Harris, 440 Downing Street, Fort Wayne, is the best informed man on Johney Appleseed history in the country.